

News

COLEOPTERA SECTION, OTTAWA

The staff of the Coleoptera Section, Systematic Unit, Division of Entomology of the Canadian Department of Agriculture includes: W. J. Brown, E. C. Becker, S. L. Wood, S. D. Hicks, R. de Ruelle. Groups receiving special attention at present are Chrysomelidae (Brown), Elateridae (Becker), and Scolytidae (Wood).

W. J. BROWN

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ENTOMOLOGICAL MUSEUM, LUND

The Entomological Museum of the Zoological Institute, University of Lund, Lund, Sweden, is first and foremost trying to build up a complete collection of Swedish insects. But during the last few years, as a result of expeditions made by members of the staff, it has started specialization in two other fields: North American Coleoptera, especially Carabidae, and South African insects, especially Gyrinidae and other freshwater forms. Attention is also brought to the fact that the old collections of J. W. Zetterstedt (1785-1874; mainly Diptera) and C. G. Thomson (1824-1899; mainly Hymenoptera) belong to this museum. Here are also housed a considerable number of coleopterous types.

CARL H. LINDROTH

Zoological Institute, Lund

COLEOPTERISTS GATHER

The Sunday evening Smoker held by the Society of Systematic Zoology and the Society for the Study of Evolution in the offices of Dr. A. S. Romer, Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, during the Boston meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science turned up more Coleopterists than most of us have ever seen in one place before. Those that

I had a chance to talk to are: Phil Darlington, Barry Valetine, Frank Young, Dick Balekwelder, Floyd Werner, R. R. Driesbach, Bill Brown, Henry Howden, and probably one or two others who have since slipped my mind. We just missed F. Monros, but saw him again in New York on the way home. We also had a visit in New York with Mont Cazier, Mrs. Vaurie, and John Pallister. I cannot help but hope that someday we can have a national meeting of Coleopterists.

R. H. ARNETT, JR.

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Notes

ERRATA, VOLUME 7

Vol. 7, pages 43, line 26 should read: "between sternite 9 and 10. Because sternite 10, as in the female."

THE RENE OBERTHUR COLLECTION

René Oberthur, an Alsatian, was born in 1852. Although he died in 1944, his collection did not attain permanent deposition until about the end of 1952 when it was acquired by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. During the interim the collection was inaccessible for some time. Attempts were made to purchase the collection from outside the country, but it was declared a national treasure.

René's brother Charles Oberthur amassed one of the largest collections of Lepidoptera ever assembled, but it was dispersed on the latter's death.

During the summer of 1953 the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle presented an exposition entitled "Splendeur et diversité du monde des insects," centered around the René Oberthur collection, and also including other historical information on entomology, particularly in France, and general information on insects and entomology.